Express Train from Pathankot to Baijnath

943. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Express Trains running from Pathankot to Baijnath, Kangra Valley Section of the Northern Railways;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce another express train on this route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) One pair.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational constraints and lack of resources.

World Conference on 'Poliomyelitis and Meals; Vaccine and Immunisation'

944. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts from different countries at a World Conference on 'Poliomyelitis and meals; vaccines and immunization' have called for effective measures to eradicate major child-killing and crippling diseases; and

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made in this regard by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

The International Comparative Virology Organization, Canada, in collaboration with the WHO organised a meeting entitled "World Conference on Poliomyelitis and Measles: Vaccines and Immunization" in New Delhi from 7th to 12th January, 1992. A summary of the report on the above Conference, based on the draft Minutes received from WHO, is an under:-

1. Poliomyelitis

The Conference noted the progress towards global polio eradication, using presently recommended strategies in countries in the Americas, Europe and the Arab world. High levels of Immunization coverage and marked reducation in disease incidence were also reported in China and India. The major constraint likely to delay or prevent the eradication of poliomyelitis was resource limitations, especially shortages of finance to purchase vaccine and additional resources to implement essential mass campaigns in high risk areas and for mop-up activities. The importance of polio surveillance for early detection of possible cases and institution of energetic control measures was stressed. In looking at strategies, the importance of using the primary health infrastructure was emphasized.

Debate was focussed on the use of currently available polio vaccines. (OPV) is the vaccine of choice for the eradication of the virus in endemic countries. There was a place for inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in combined scheduled in countries with no known wild virus transmission, good surveillance and where vaccine costs are not an inhibiting factor.

Development of polio virus laboratory

network and environmental sampling of wild viruses in the context of polio eradication was also discussed.

2. Measles

It was noted that measles remains a major cause of childhood mortality, although immunization coverage levels have increased worldwide. Children living in poor urban environment were a high risk group and needed special attention. Other high-risk groups were children in low coverage areas, hospitalized children and refugee camps. Case fatality rates could be reduced by early treatment of post-measles complications.

Studies on strategies using a two dose measles schedule to cover older children in many industrialised countries was presented. It was noted, however, that further research was needed to evaluate the optimum strategy in a given epidemiological situation.

The Conference took note of the safety of measles vaccine. Eradication of measles was recognised a possibility, although note was taken of the immense problems associated with this goal.

Drop-outs among Tribal Students

945. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for continuing high rate of drop-outs of tribal students at primary and secondary school levels vis-a-vis others;

(b) The measures taken by the Government to reduce the rate of drop-outs; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Drop-out rates can be traced to socio-economic factors such as:

— Children being required to work to supplement the family income or otherwise assist their parents;

— Girls having to attend house hold chores and looking after the siblings;

— Schools having inadequate facilities and insufficient instructional material;

— Reluctance of parents to send their wards to schools.

(b) Some of the measures taken to reduce drop-out rates are:

— Provision of incentives such as scholarships, uniforms, textbooks, attendance scholarships to girls, provision of mid-day meals, hostel facilities, etc.;

— Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

— Programmes of non-formal education for those who cannot attend whole day schools;

— Opening of new schools in SC/ST localities.

(c) As a result of these measures their drop-out rate is gradually declining.

Incentive for Family Planning Programmes

946. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI G. M.C. BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: